

**Amendments to the Claims**  
**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

8. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

9. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 2 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

10. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 3 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

11. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 5 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

12. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

13. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 2 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

14. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 3 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

15. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 5 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

16. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 1, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

17. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 2, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

18. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 3, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

19. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 5, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

20. (New) A method of providing a saw band or saw band blank substantially resistant to hydrogen embrittlement, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an alloy comprising by weight:

0.05 to 0.10% of niobium;

and

0.25 to 0.35% of carbon,

0.3 to 0.5% of silicon,

0.8 to 1.5% of manganese,

1.0 to 2.0% of molybdenum,

1.5 to 3.5% of chromium,

0.5 to 1.5% of nickel,

0.5 to 2.5% of tungsten, and

0.15 to 0.30% of vanadium;

and/or

0.05 to 1.0% of copper,

0.01 to 0.2% of aluminum, or

0.01 to 1.0% of cobalt;

the remaindering percentage of the weight being iron including smelting-related impurities.

manufacturing a saw band or saw band blank from said alloy.

austenitizing said saw band or saw band blank 1150 to 1200°C,

quenching said saw band or saw band blank to room temperature, and

tempering said saw band or saw band blank at 450 to 600°C.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:  
electrolytically coating said saw band or saw band blank, by PVD or by CVD.
22. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:  
electrolytically coating said saw band or saw band blank by PVD or by CVD with  
intercalated hard-material particles.
23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said alloy has a ratio of the molybdenum  
to tungsten contents being 0.9 to 1.1.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
electrolytically coating said saw band or saw band blank, by PVD or by CVD.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
electrolytically coating said saw band or saw band blank by PVD or by CVD with  
intercalated hard-material particles.
30. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said saw band or saw band blank has  
cutting teeth and the method further comprises the step of:  
coating at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD  
layer containing hard-material particle.
31. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said saw band or saw band blank has  
cutting teeth and the method further comprises the step of:  
coating at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD  
layer containing hard-material particle.